

Left my animal the Ev. of Jan 12th. just arrived at noon
man & after an 2 1/2. walk to the demands of rain - The
next morning we started on an excursion to the ancient
quarries. It was thought a good chance to try camels,
some for the first time, rather practically & experimentally
if she takes the journey through the desert - she began her
trip, & populated with camels & boys, donkeys & their drivers,
& it was only a chore - The camels were very cross, some
even I thought, if one were led about by a small boy, by a
ring through the nose, & made to kneel & get up again for no
reason but his facet will - And such a work as some as any symp-
toms appeared of our wanting animals! - Mother, Mr. Denny, & George
took camels & the rest donkeys - We wound round the outskirts
of the town, & then entered, truly on the desert - Not much sand,
only the little made by the gradual disintegration of the rocks,
which lay piled about everywhere - The "quarries" are only where
these great masses of rock have been cut away for building -
No regularity that I could see, no mining into the ground, but
taken wherever the stone seemed convenient, apparently - But
as they are very much filled up, probably the great surface of
cutting is covered - Very wonderful are the fresh surfaces, the
marks of wedge & chisel as fresh as if made last week, &
all the shape of the mass of stone taken off - The most wonder-
ful thing however in the quarries, is the obelisk separated from
the stone but not moved, that I saw laid there three thousands

years. But you do not know how difficult it is to persuade
"myself of the age of these things! - After we were ready
to mount our donkeys, each side, but myself took a short
time in camel-back, - all thought it easy - But certainly
it does not look easy to hold one's seat when the camel
gets up, or when he gets down is kicking, bounces in front, bounces
behind, bounces in front again! The poor rider holding on with
both hands, occurring as if he must be pitched. Head forward.
Then mother, Maria Mrs. Denny, George & Angelo went on to
see while the Cataracts, the rest of us came back through
the old cemetery on the edge of the quarries - That did make
one think how many years had passed! How old the world
was! To see these modern bars so thick, stretching as far as
we could see, all so old - Ruined domes & little square build-
ings, of some only the rough oblong mason-work left marking
the sand & making it a little harder, & then the hundreds
& hundreds of little grave-stones, with Arabic inscriptions,
older than Arabic, so that but to a few learned men the
meaning is all gone, & thousands of them one might say,
lying as far, as thick as we could see! - And all so desolate
not a green thing in sight, not a human habitation, - except
us, this dreary desert all around! - In the Ev. we
took boats & went over to the Island of Elephantine lying
opposite us, with green fields of palm-trees - But on landing
not so pretty, the Southern end only surrounded of rain again,

two boats, & photographed - Some dancing boys came down on the river
& I caught a distant glimpse of their performance, - As near as I can
decide - I think it wonderfully ugly & disagreeable, a very slow step, & then
a wriggling of the lower part of the spine & the muscles of the thigh
that is very remarkable, looks as if the dancers were disappointed,
but is only curious, & the utter reverse of grace - Their dress was taw-
dry in colour, their feet clumsy in the very full downers of huge slip-
pers, & some wore quantities of little gold coins over forehead, breast,
& dangling, so that they clinked their approach -

In the afternoon Sapienza came into place, & says that our going
the next day was all settled, there had been a great row the day be-
fore before, the Governor wishing probably to pocket something, had
backed the ³ ruins of the Cataracts & ask very much more than
last year's price, contrary to the agreement with the Kh. before
the Governor at Beni; but now, he said, they had said a prayer
together & agreed to the same price, & we should be off in the
early morning - Lady Gordon, we said, had spoken & said there
should be some fixed price, & not this quarrelling with the
victors, so we had good news when they came back at dusk
from Khilla, charmed with their excursion - Some thought
camels easier than donkeys, & another thinks she could travel
very well, & it did not make her at all sea-sick - The next
morning all were up early for the photographing - The Heron was
taken first & very successfully, but the bird was backed in so close with
other boats they moved one away from her that made delay, when
she was taken the wind had risen & it is not so good - meantime

we got cross & hungry waiting for breakfast, & then some had it after
more late, & we thought our sailing must be delayed - But no
sailing appeared, & the day was over, & we began to grow impatient
when it came again! We waited on till it was 12.30, & then
at 1.30 the boats & a long row of boats came in the Kh. the bird took
Kassan a trotting by themselves & but also, without any interpreters!
We have their sailing adventures, that cannot make their
accounts much more lively - I see less than any, I suppose
as we are here - While they were gone, we saw some things on
the deck, & presently Sapienza appeared, & said the Governor
was coming to call, the game was settled, she was
coming to make us a visit! - So he was invited in, & came
with an attendant to rise - He had on a nice velvet vest,
one might say, & a dark vest, our without buttons, & held in
by a broad belt, six inches wide certainly, of old lace - His face
was a rich maroon colour instead of the usual red, & so
was his long, loose, over coat - The attendant had a turban &
more of the Turkish dress, & the Coptic scribe in Egyptian
dress with red fez & black turban - But the Governor's face
was I think, the most cruel ugly I ever saw! I would not
trust that man in anything, & I pity the unhappy peo-
ple in his power - The attendant's face was better, & the Copt
had the old Egyptian face, the long, soft eye, & the marked nose,
& full lips, yet not too full, & the face further refined -
Coffee was brought, & pipes, but our pipes are only common
of the same kind as in Cairo - Ben Abdallah's we saw has some

almost sunset he sailed away in still water towards
rising green oases in the distance, with palms & pyramids. The high seas
on the land closed towering up - He stopped in the night on the
the island, near an American boat coming down - From this boat
of him, took 3 children. They came in board to call. The Heron
coming up last did not come up with us, but stayed at the falls -
The first found in the 'mang' was 'browadji, backsheek' - & apparently
padding round the boat - I did not look out however - One of the eight
at the Cataracts, had been the swimming 'browadji' quite upright;
the swim of water, passing the water, but most skilfully - Then the swimmer
came shivering for 'backsheek' - All the little boys went & dipped their
elbows too, & came up shivering & begging too! - The next morning, the
the next morning, the island was very beautiful with palms & green mixed
with the brown stone, but the stone is the same colour as the rocks
which form the shores like mountains on either side, so they are
not so conspicuous as I expected - The open temple of columns
came in sight as we rounded the island, & we drew up on the bank
just below to meet the natives who had signalled us to stop - There was
some trouble about paying 'the Cataract's men' - the Governor of Assuan
threatening to punish the natives who had had charge of the Heron, unless
he paid back mail - & the natives sent a letter of remonstrance
to send to him, & to the Gov. of Cairo, & all the ladies but one went ashore
for a walk - The sail was beautiful after that, Nubia is more
picturesque than Egypt, the shores are so much narrower, the rocks
higher & the green is so hot to the water's edge it looks richer -

sand bank, & sailed, away in front of an Indian canoe -
during the first fall, where we were to take the next turn -
The men soon turned round & sailed on, just ready because the
quick water as soon as the other boat was through, it was soon
work she would seem half through & then slide back again, & some
of men were on the rocks beyond hauling at ropes, not lengths, in
about an hour, she was up, & turning a sharp corner of rock which
required careful steering, she sailed away in still water & on the
ing the rocks was out of sight in the turn - Before that all our
men - One ashore when we were close to the rocks, & he peered at
them for clearing all the men ashore - Just just as we began to
of Sapanza signalled for us to come ashore too; it was difficult work
she was anxious, & we were rushed ashore in a small boat, & sat on a
high rock in a scorching sun & watched the poor bird. Meantime
the Nubian had followed, & the Heron lay & shied behind, & as the
Nubian now took our place close under the rocks, Lingy went down -
At us some lunch - The native population was much at our offering
necklaces of shells & beads, & round stones, & very persistent in demanding
'backsheek' - It really needed threatening with a stick & kept them off -
The bird struggled on, the men screamed & yelled, 'there she goes! there
yells back!' & as one step back for every two up, she was through at
last; but long as she was, turning in the short bend above was a dif-
ficult matter, & they had to back her a little over the fall again & get
her more round the rock, an anxious matter & a slow work, at last
she was right, & we were too hot & tired to wait & see the Nubian &

It was very beautiful; the ladies went on shore & saw a Tibetan village, looked into a house, & saw women shabies - The gentlemen had a climb up a valley to a mountain top where Dr. Jones says he got a wonderful idea of desert, each side the river & the river & its little strip of green in the middle. - They saw foot-prints & wild animals, & lots of bones - Tuesday Mr. Sapienza arrived in a native boat, with the new post - Reached the little village opposite Thule Monday Ev., down to Asoman by midnight, got his post, a stick of acacia, all the way from Soudan costing 7 1/2 dollars, brot it by camel back above the falls, & then the 20 miles sail was! - It took next day until three or four to get it ready & all in place, & then we all sailed. Sailed all night, & the next morn. Friday, I passed very much on deck as the scenery was very striking, & many temples came in sight on shore; some Roman, some small some cut in rocks, some only seen thro' a glass, the fragments, others quite conspicuous - ^(Kalabshai, Senhar, 3 or 4 miles) The passed 5! it seems strange they should have built so many temples here in this thinly populated country, where now are only these poor mud villages, with a little mean Coptic church or half ruined mosque once in a while - We were on the look out for crocodiles, & Saturday morn. they came in to tell me to look on a rock near, but before I could see anything, he had slipped off into the water - Presently Charles came whispering, to look on the sand-bank we were approaching, I went forward, all the crew were whispering, & slowly we glided near the ugly stretch, so like the sand one could not see him without the fluke, his tail only, a little greenish; he raised his head - & began slowly to slide into the water, when George & Sapienza both fired at once, & he bounded up & thrusted & with a great splash! A white fish jumping out high in the air

too! They must have hit him; & as our wind failed just then & the men went ashore to track he floated back quite close, & saw the scratches he had left on the sand - I am afraid he was only frightened, for the Andine & Meron coming after, & no sign of him - At dusk we drew up at high water, a flight of steps leading up in the earth to a wooden gate, which the natives reported ascended with mud. They went on & saw a caravan arrived from Soudan & the far interior, wild men, who were courteous however, the Ababdeh, George bought from them a most ferocious looking knife! - Sunday morn. after a walk on shore, they came back with 3 camels - They seem very dark in the shade or when angry or frightened, in the sunlight a lovely green, which they vary with brown or orange spots, & a pale green, almost ash colour, at night - They have not yet tamed or learnt to catch flies yet, but one walks about in the cat's a good deal, & does not faze his ugly mouth at you like a snake, when you come near, as he did at first - He had service in the afternoon, & a lovely sunset, calm & soft, after a cool day, overcast partly - Monday morn. they all went up ^(3 saw) but Mrs. Howland & myself, to see a little, old temple on the bank above, very interesting they all reported, though small, Thothmes III - At sunset we drew up at a sand-bank, the 3 bachelors had passed the day on the Andine, & she is so much slower we have to wait an hour sometimes for her - Dr. Jones & the ladies went off for a run & to get warm, for it had been too cool, & to visit our Tibetan pilot, a weak-kneed, long, forlorn, old fellow trotted off with the 3 camels for milk - I was on deck & watched the red sun set & then the dim homes coming back the Andine & the 3 gentlemen came on

it is one of those things of which a sketch conveys a far
a better idea of its grandeur & majesty, & the calm repose
& sanctness in those colossal jaws, more like the reality
than of almost anything I ever saw - Col. Leffer & the English
party from the other boat were in the temple, & we ex-
plored partly with their candles, (a sort of iron cage on a
long pole in which they burn wood & chips, giving a bright
light for awhile,) & then some of the most interesting figures
on the sides of the first hall, Charles explained to the as-
sembled crowd by the light of some Bengal lights of Mr.
Howland's & some magnesian oil of Charles' - But the light
was too dim in the recesses, the wood too smoky, & candles
hardly brighter. Still we got some most interesting
things - The great Ramesses in his chariot, then in the
midst of the fight, standing on his victim & holding another
ready to cut him down, then the captives brought, & the
different nationalities wonderfully expressed in profiles,
on the opposite wall the siege of a town, the army encamp-
ment, the fight, the victory, the hands of the slain cut
off to count them, &c. &c. - Each side of the entrance on the
inside, Ramesses holds some dozen captives by the hair, &
saying to one of the gods, seems to ask shall they be
"killed?" - There are three chambers, in succession cut
into the solid rock, the shrine in the inner one - Some
little ^{comparatively} rooms are opened on each side, six or 8, & the whole

The next morning, today, we bore all day - The river
is very high, & we see the new from there; very striking, the view
of the desert - It is the northernmost point of the Nile
near across the river in the small boat, & then took donkeys.
The Nile is all rapids, for 10 miles north it is said - It was a
very high wind, & we tossed on shore more than was pleasant.
They wanted to have a house-cleaning, & Antonio invited Silvia &
Luis to pass the night on the Andine - The women have been so
chary of their imitations to us on board their boat, that we have
never divulged where we passed the day, tho' I have tried
to mystify them a little, but quite unsuccessfully, about some
wonderful information I picked up from a French pamphlet in
Paris - There - They shook carpets, beat cushions, washed floors &
put the whole all in nice order - They did not get back until
sunset, having enjoyed their day, notwithstanding the wind. In
the eve Col. Leffer called, & one of his companions - They arrived
that afternoon. One dahabieh, English, was at Kadsee Kalfa when
we arrived - One Russian boat came down, while we were at
Assouan, he passed the Brains at Wadkatta, met a French
boat one eve, in English one next morning, - later, the same day, an
English & Swiss one in company, so we were the 14th boat at Ka-
dee Kalfa - Dr Candolle had written Dr. Gray that he had given
a Swiss friend, Mr. Marcotte, letters to him; so we stopped the
Swiss boat when we met it, & one of the gentlemen went ashore
to meet our gentlemen - It turned out Mr. Marcotte was on the

Cyphus boat. But Mr. Purdie, who came, was a connection of Bressant,
I was very glad to get some Spectators & newspapers we gave him,
with our latest news - On Friday they took down our great yard &
put it across the upper-deck, folded up & towed away the great
sail, put the ^{on the deck} side sail back on the foremast, & took up alter-
mate planks, for the men to sit at their oars, Spearoars rigged on each
side - Our deck comes up in two strips, so a path-way is left down the
middle, but the Heron & Vendine come up in the middle, & passing
back forth to the kitchen in the bow requires some agility. - The oars are
very long, little square beams with the end rounded for a handle
about 2 inches, & then thinned off to flat blades for two feet & so, they
are very heavy, & tied to the rowlocks so as to balance in the middle.
The men row very much by their weight, most of the time standing,
sitting down & rising with each stroke, sometimes leaning back un-
til their heads almost touch the seat behind - They put apparently,
a deal of hard work into it. But rowing is more so, as sailing,
nor does the boat look as pretty - Saturday a very high, cold, north
wind blew strongly up the river, so nobody could stir, but must
bump & tows on shore! Some went for a walk to the village among
the palm trees in the distance, & I took a little turn on the sandy
beach where we lay, the first time I had been off the boat Sunday
was a fortnight - He heard that they were fearing a scarcity of food,
the Nile was so low this year, & Locusts had injured the crops. But
after consultation with dragmen, sheikhs &c. our gentlemen
found it would take so much to do a very little good, that it was
hopeless, especially as it might never reach the place for whom it was intended.

After dark the wind went down, & first the Emil Lucia, & off,
then the Heron, then Col. Liggins, & lastly the Vendine & this. But
the poor this, that with the advantage of its eye shape sail
was the best sailer, is not the slowest with oars, & we lagged
so much behind! - Sunday morn. the wind was ahead &
high again, & so we all got down road-side with an oc-
casional row - Most went ashore on a walk & I felt quite
sick & miserable, & was very glad to get a turn in shore where
we drew up at a bank later, for the men to get their dinner. It
was funny to see them then all stretched about in their brown
clothes asleep on the bank! - He had dinner, & turned off started
again - We got aground, but it grew calm too & so we moved, & having
supper & morn. light, we started on with the Vendine, as it so
happened passed the other boats, pulled up farther on, & fast-
ened up under Abou Simbel at 5 1/2 in the morn. -
They were all up before sun-rise, except the Louisa among
us, & see the temple by the first morn. rays - The rock fac-
es to the S.E. so that the only time when the inner chamber
can be lighted by the sun, is when it is so, early in the
morn. & low in the horizon - They said the effect was so fine.
After breakfast they rose in an arm chair with two poles, & were
carried by Bessians up the very steep bank of land & along the
heavy edge, & so up to the temple, where I saw a most de-
lightful morn. - I am not going to describe Abou Simbel,
you have Charles' photographs, & they give you an excellent
view, & is better than our birds & our own boat. Indeed

we hurried breakfast & as the temple looked close at hand. I went
with them - But it was a heavy pull through loose sand & scarcely
paid - The workmanship was rude, the stones loose, little but the py-
lon left, & some shattered columns in front - There had been a avenue
of columns, the broken heads peered above the sand - One of the men
cland away the sand round one quite buried, & so it was a perfect -
ly preserved face the placid, sweet strength, so characteristic of
Ancient Egypt. On our way back we saw some native bearing, the
man sat in a robe in the mud, his head at his feet, his form very
rude in appearance, but the coarse, black, worn cloth looked very
good - I saw thatched sheltered his head - Then were mud, granaries
at the back about, something shaped like four great standing cloths
+ very fine. It is curious how firm & hard, like untanned ^{stiff} clay they were, really
resonant when struck, & an ornamental line marked down the outside,
as if they were leather sewed up in a seam! - The next morning they
were off before breakfast again for another temple, Setka, & after breakfast to
see an ancient fortress on the opposite shore - As we sailed away I
could see the temple very well, it stands high, & is very perfect outside,
pylon, corridor, adytum - one of the most perfect, I believe - In the
aft. we stopped for Jey H. temple, another rock temple - I went as it
was an easy walk, no sand - It is rough & rude. Some colossal fig-
ures inside, but coarsely done & badly proportioned; some columns out-
side; but a savage's rude imitation compared to Abon Simbel -
We had a deal of head wind, & so only reached Kalabinek at lunch
on Sunday - Ever faithfully, mine L. Gray - Feb. 10th

extent all hollowed out of the rock, is wonderful! - After landing
peeps here & there, before I went down again, I went with Dr.
Gray & Mr. Amory & mother, & explored thoroughly with candles,
into all the little side rooms - It was very interesting; some had
stone diorais against the walls, others richer, & almost all ^{the sculptures} were
priests making offerings of various kinds, cakes, fruits, meats, &c.,
In one room only one side was sculptured, & that was in-
complete; at the extreme end the figures were only chalked
upon the wall, & one could see where the painter's child had
stopped his work! Some colour was left on these inner rooms,
but not very gay, but wonderful indeed was it to think these
were all 3 or 4,000 years old! It is past one's comprehension
or apprehension - The four colossal figures on the outside, &
then the 8 great figures of Osiris against the columns on the in-
side, are all that can be called statues that are left - The
enormous size one scarcely grasps, when Dr. Gray went & stood
against one of the Osiris & barely reached the knee, instead of
the figure looking so colossal, it only made him look so
diminutive! & it was the same effect of the great Ramses
outside, the men looked pygmies - Olivia stood up against
one face, & reached only from the lip to the eye - He clambered
up the sand drift, & sat for a long while so pale on the
great placid, tranquil faces, so full of repose & sweetness, &
yet so full of power too - And one could not but think the
man who had planned them out so long ago, who had such

skilful workman & command, must have had something of
the grandeur & power in himself, to be able so to have trans-
mitted its semblance down for centuries - And yet with all
the beauty of the outside faces, & my mind the Beis inside
is something more. They are tranquil, grand, the embodi-
ment of placid power & repose, but the faces inside, as sweet
& tranquil, have something ^{beyond} ~~more~~ the flexible mouth, the more
sensitive face, tell of some deep thought: hidden behind, held
in quiet power, & only revealed to those whom Beis loves, & to whom
having passed his grand tribunal, he is the judge of the dead,
he unfolds his mysteries - You would scarcely believe how finish-
ed & beautiful these gigantic faces are! - You know there is
only one whole length uncovered, - The next is shattered, &
the sand drifts down, covering up the door & within a few feet
of the top, so one slides down into the interior - like a great snow
bank, & covering the third figure & the waist, while of the fourth
only the head rises above - This beautiful, yellow sand! In
the afternoon the others went across to get the view from the
opposite shore, but the shadows were wrong, the left face is
behind - Then they climbed again to the hills just over, one
overlooking the other the summit of the very rock itself,
whence they said they had a superb sun-set view of the
interior valley - In the ^{evening} ~~day~~ all but Dr. Gray, mother & I
went up to see it by moonlight, at 11 o'clock - The moon,
as Dr. Gray had told, was too old & faint, but they carried
torches & they said by holding them up about the faces they it was

grand objects - Before we came back to the boat in the morn-
on our way down we stopped in to see the smaller temple
cut in the next rock out - It was dedicated to Ather,
& we saw the sacred cow in a boat among lotus leaves,
& sundry representations of various gods - Tuesday morn-
they all went up to the temple again, & I sat on deck
to study the only race I could see, & I stayed up, as we
sailed away at noon, to get the last of that grand fac-
cade, which has recolored in the actual seeing me of the
dreams of my life.

The wind now fresh & we sailed up at sun-down only
three or four miles off, cold & chilly, such a contrast to
the lovely, calm day before - The next morn we
stopped at Irecan & they went up to climb to the old
decided to in a fortress - The next morn- they started
to go before break, at once the temple at Ather - Ather is
the capital of Arabia, & our depot for the caravans, but
we did not get the chance we had hoped for any view
into from the interior - We passed in the morn- the little
temple of Amada, where they had stored, just up the river,
& I could see the pylon entrance, built over the rock front -
By noon we were at Hornuco, the other great depot for Para-
vans; one was just in, & Antonio went ashore, but the Horn-
was first, & their dragonmen had ^{not} the leopard skins, which were
all we wanted - We could see through our trees the encamp-
ments & signals etc. The next morn- we were tied about 10 miles,